

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-01
DHA-02 ORM-02 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15
NSC-05 SP-02 PRS-01 /078 W
-----040243Z 041046 /66

R 031348Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3792
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1620

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, CSCE, PFOR, PINT, SREF, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: EXIT PROCEDURES REPORTEDLY TIGHTENED IN KIEV

REF: 76 MOSCOW 19842, 76 MOSCOW 17838

1. THREE SOVIET JEWISH FAMILIES FROM KIEV HAVE RECENTLY INFORMED EMBASSY THAT OVIR REFUSED THEM EXIT VISAS FOR THE US BECAUSE THEIR SPONSORING RELATIVES LEFT USSR WITH EXIT VISAS FOR ISRAEL. IN ALL THREE CASES, PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS SUBMITTED "VYZOV'S" FROM CLOSE RELATIVES (DAUGHTER IN TWO CASES AND MOTHER IN ONE) WHO NOW LIVE IN US.

2. IN EACH CASE, OVIR NOTIFIED FAMILY THAT EXIT VISA WOULD BE ISSUED, AND FAMILY CONTACTED EMBASSY TO BEGIN PROCESSING. HOWEVER, OVIR SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED EACH FAMILY (INCLUDING GORETSKIY FAMILY 76 MOSCOW 19842 REFTEL) THAT EXIT PERMISSION WAS WITHDRAWN BECAUSE INVITING RELATIVE HAD RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL, NOT US. IN EACH CASE, OVIR OFFICIALS IMPLIED BUT DID NOT GUARANTEE THAT EXIT PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL WOULD BE GRANTED UPON PRESENTATION OF ISRAELI VYZOV. APPLICANTS WERE REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT OVIR IS
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ACTING ON BASIS OF A NEW REGULATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, WHICH STATES THAT EMIGRANTS WILL BE GRANTED EXIT PERMISSION ONLY TO COUNTRIES FOR WHICH THEIR SPONSORS RECEIVED EXIT VISAS.

3. COMMENT -- IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS TO OBTAIN EXIT VISAS TO JOIN SPONSORS WHO "DROPPED OUT" TO US OR OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES RATHER THAN

SETTLING IN ISRAEL. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE AWARE OF SEVERAL CASES IN WHICH OVIR ISSUED SUCH EXIT VISAS IN THE PAST, USUALLY AFTER NUMEROUS APPLICATIONS AND LONG WAITING PERIODS. IF THIS REPORTED NEW POLICY IS ENFORCED THROUGHOUT UKRAINE, TOTAL NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWS EMIGRATING DIRECTLY TO THE US WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED. POSSIBLY COINCIDENTALLY, NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS PROCESSED BY EMBASSY IN JANUARY WAS LOWEST IN RECENT MEMORY. ONLY 22 OF 223 EMIGRANTS PROCESSED BY EMBASSY IN JANUARY WERE JEWISH, COMPARED WITH 79 OF 120 IN JANUARY 1976 AND 48 OF 206 IN DECEMBER 1976. WHILE IT IS PREMATURE TO ATTRIBUTE THE DEARTH OF JEWS AMONG JANUARY EMIGRANTS TO THIS REPORTED POLICY CHANGE, WE WILL BE PAYING PARTICULARLY CLOSE ATTENTION TO ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION OF DIRECT EMIGRANTS IN THE COMING MONTHS.

4. THESE DEVELOPMENTS APPEAR TO SUPPORT EMBASSY'S CONCLUSION 76 MOSCOW 17838 THAT AUTHORITIES WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REFUSE TO GRANT A SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED NUMBER OF EXIT VISAS FOR THE US TO RELATIVES OF FORMER SOVIET JEWS WHO "DROPPED OUT" RATHER THAN SETTLE IN ISRAEL. WHATEVER THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINATION, SOVIET JEWS STILL APPEAR TO BE MORE LIKELY TO RECEIVE EXIT PERMISSION WHEN THEY APPLY FOR ISRAEL.
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